

The Baptist Record

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First person accounts...

"Are you a padre?" Tanzanian abductor asked victim

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (BP) — "Are we going to shoot them all together or one at a time?" the abductor asked his two associates.

Lined up on their knees with their backs to him were three missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board and two missionary children. They had been abducted on Aug. 5, along with their vehicle, two hours earlier just outside a game reserve in central Tanzania. A fifth member of the group was left behind, hiding at the scene of the kidnapping.

"Oh, God, they're going to shoot Sandy," prayed missionary David Moreland as the gunman grabbed another missionary, Sandy Harrington, from the line and forced her to kneel five feet away.

"I was absolutely terrified," said Harrington of Newport News, Va. "My fear had been escalating throughout the whole ordeal. But even then, there was a calmness in the midst of my terror — a sense of heavenwardness. 'If they killed me, I'd be with God,' I thought to myself."

But she said to the gunman, "Please don't shoot me."

"I truly had a peace that passed all understanding," Moreland's wife, Millie, said. "We were ready to go. If we died, we died, but at least we were together. We had surrendered everything." The Morelands are from Monroe, La.

Harrington, too, felt a similar peace. "During the calmness in my terror, I remembered the Bible verse in the book of Romans saying nothing could separate us from the love of Christ — not even death." She recalled praying for God's angels to protect them. "We were all kneeling, holding hands and praying out loud."

At the same time, 10-year-old Joanna Giddens had two thoughts: "Would we be saved or killed? Would they shoot us or would the police find us?" wondered Giddens, daughter of Foreign Mission Board missionaries Ed and Nancy Giddens of

Sepulveda, Calif. "I wasn't scared, though, because I knew that with God, everything would be all right. When they lined us up, we held hands, thinking they would shoot us with the machine gun but we prayed for God to protect us with his angels."

"When I saw the gun, I felt scared at first," said Harrington's daughter, Christine, age 10, "but I knew I would go to heaven if I was killed, and that was better than being alive... so, I didn't care."

Lined up, kneeling, their backs to the gunman, holding hands and praying aloud, the five expected to die. Then one of the abductors leaned down and asked David Moreland a question.

"Are you a 'padre?'" he asked.

"Yes, I'm a 'padre,'" Moreland responded to their question. "I'm a missionary...."

"The next thing I knew," Harrington said, "we were all being told to drink this orange liquid they put before us. I was afraid it was poison and didn't know whether to drink it, but David said to drink it, that it was OK."

"When I saw the juice, I felt like shouting," Moreland said, "because I knew then that they wouldn't shoot us. I had read reports of other hijackings and knew that they drugged people. That's what they were doing."

"Oh, God, what now?" Moreland prayed, thinking that they still might be killed. But one of the kidnappers said, "Lie down so you can sleep." The abductors rummaged through the vehicle, then drove off.

Harrington said, "After they left, we walked, then I don't remember much until the next day when I heard the plane" (flown by missionary pilot Mike Cannata, who found them).

They walked awhile, then saw their vehicle with their belongings scattered all around it. "I told everyone to get off the road and hide," Moreland said. He then thought of trying to sneak up on the vehicle.

"I took three steps and the full force of

the drug hit," he said. "The next thing I remember was Millie saying, 'David, that's our airplane!'" That was 18 hours later. They had survived the drug and the threat of attacks by lions and other wild animals that roam the area.

"I flew over and saw them (the victims) all lying on a dirt road," Cannata said. "The airplane woke them up, and when they saw me, they began to wave."

Much later, Moreland said, "We crossed a line, the five of us, that most people don't cross. I had peace because I knew Jesus Christ and knew that he was my Lord and Savior."

"I've been someplace in my life that most haven't been, and I'm going to tell them about it. Then I'm going to ask them if they can say the same thing about Jesus that I can say."



SAFE AND SOUND — Ten-year-old Southern Baptist "missionary kids" Christine Harrington (left) and Joanna Giddens (right) relax with Christine's dad, Bill Harrington, and Joanna's mom, Nancy Giddens, a few days after the girls were kidnapped Aug. 5 and drugged in the African bush. Also kidnapped at a wild game park in Tanzania were Christine's mother, Sandy Harrington, and David and Millie Moreland, all Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Tanzania. The five kidnap victims and their families attended a retreat Aug. 9-11 in Dar es Salaam to help them and other FMB missionaries in Tanzania process the trauma of the ordeal. "We've worked through the crisis management phase of the situation," said missionary Jon Sapp, who led the retreat attended by 112 missionaries and missionary children. "Now we must deal with aftershocks," Sapp said. "The idea is to deal with what happened and get on with our lives." (BP photo by Steve Evans)

Direct to you

Hungry for more talk radio in your day? ChristianNet has the menu to satisfy the appetite of any talk-show junkie. Utilizing technology developed for direct broadcast satellite (DBS) television, the Tulsa, Okla.-based company will beam more than 30 conservative Christian talk shows directly into American homes 24 hours a day, beginning Sept. 1. Many familiar names have signed with ChristianNet, including James Dobson, Chuck Swindoll, Kay Arthur, Larry Burkett, Max Lucado, and Tupelo-based American Family Association. DBS equipment (18-inch antenna dish and a receiver) and a subscription are needed to pick up ChristianNet, but company officials believe customers will be pleased with the service. "Each ChristianNet channel has its own unique identity, with speakers and programs that revolve around that specific genre of Christian programming," said Todd Ragsdale, product manager for ChristianNet. The four channels are teaching and preaching; news and current events with a listener call-in feature; family issues; and Moody Radio Network. For more information, call (800) 831-4641.

Building Sunday Schools

Bill Taylor believes Sunday School classes in the local church should literally be Bible seminaries for its members. The former education minister recently joined the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and intends to focus on building the image of Sunday School in the minds of Southern Baptists. "Some foster the thought that Sunday School is obsolete and that the only hope is to try to discover a more contemporary paradigm which meets the needs of 'boomers' and 'busters.' Others talk about returning to basics and believe Sunday School is still the most effective way of reaching people. Probably between both of these thoughts lies the truth," Taylor said. He sees Sunday School as a powerful tool to win people to Christ — but one that must be open to new directions. "The truths of the word of God never change, but methods of learning do. I want to be one who would say a good word about this God-blessed, God-led system of reaching, teaching, winning, and developing people for Christ."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

The Nobel Prize's Asian equivalent, the Ramon Magsasay Award, is given to Mississippian Harold Watson, missionary to the Philippines. Watson, Starkville, has worked for six years to improve the life of "the poorest of small farmers."

20 years ago

Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, licenses 81-year-old William Robertson, former United Methodist Church minister, to preach the gospel. Tuckers Crossing pastor Aaron Foy said "Uncle Bill" and his wife plan an active ministry.

50 years ago

The Mississippi WMU holds five leadership institutes for black women, with 354 in attendance. The conferences are the brainchild of state WMU worker Lillian Rose, one of the first black women in the SBC to be hired for such a position.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Battered pastors

Thom S. Rainer, in *Giant Awakenings*, calls it a "scandal of the American church." You can fight secularism and communism, but how do you fight with your own people? You expect persecution from the world but persecution can come today from those in your own house.

Recently I read a letter from a pastor in another state. He said, "I resigned today. About three weeks ago I encouraged one of our leading members to be more faithful to teaching his Sunday School class. Deer hunting, fishing trips, etc., kept him out often. I could tell he didn't like it. A week later I was informed by the personnel committee to seek another place."

One pastor took a survey on what his deacons expected of the pastor. To satisfy the group he needed to spend 14 hours a week

in prayer, 18 hours in sermon preparation, 10 hours in outreach visitation, 10 hours in counseling, 15 hours in hospital and home visitation, five hours in church meetings, 10 hours in worship services/preaching, and four hours in other activities — for a total of 114 hours per week.

Attitudes toward the pastor vary from "after all, that's what we pay him for" to those who view their pastor as an equipper. He is not some spiritual superman but a fellow believer — forgiven, and called into this ministry. He is not the CEO who is to manage a business, but the undershepherd of the flock.

An estimated 10% of all pastors are said to be suffering some persecution by fellow church members. It may be because church members fail to understand the role of the pastor or a

personality conflict. There are biblical principles to guide us in settling conflicts and misunderstandings. We need to seek these principles ere the gentle wind becomes a gale.

A case could also be stated for "battered churches" but that is another story. "Feed the flock" not "fleece the flock" is the biblical admonition. In your church, who prays for the pastor?

It is sad to speak about such things when the majority of our churches are in good fellowship with their pastor and with each other. How pleasant it is to see a church where the pastor loves his people and the people love their pastor. The principle of love as expressed in 1 Corinthians 13 can bring a new spirit of service and sacrifice. It is not to be "battered" but "blessed" in our quest for the kingdom.

Change confronts churches at every turn, speaker says

FORT WORTH (ABP) — The Christian church faces change in every direction, pastor and author Gordon MacDonald said in a July 20 seminar.

Gordon, pastor of Grace Chapel in Lexington, Mass., outlined 10 examples of these changes in a presentation sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship prior to its general assembly in Fort Worth, Texas:

— *Economics.* "Economic realities are going to make it impossible for churches to operate in the future the way they have," MacDonald said. He cited increasing costs of property, insurance, and personnel to suggest that the model of every church having its own building and a paid pastor may not endure.

— *Technology.* "Technology makes it possible for the average layperson to get as much information as the pastor has with a seminary degree," he said.

— *Relational realignment.* "The nuclear family is almost a non-existent dinosaur in many parts of the country," MacDonald said. Yet the simple assertion that getting right with God will restore the nuclear family is wrong, he added, because the nuclear family is not even the model of biblical times.

— *Growing hostility of communities.* Neighborhoods and communities are increasingly turning inward in a defensive posture, MacDonald said. And at the same time, as revenue available through taxation becomes tighter, more

communities are asking why the church should get a free ride.

— *Generational segmentation.* At least five distinct generations are alive today, MacDonald said. Each sends and receives information in different ways. This is seen most clearly in different tastes in music styles, he said. "How many churches are on the verge of dividing over music?"

— *1990s version of spirituality.* Old ideas of religion are changing as people look to a broader understanding of spirituality, he explained.

— *Exhaustion.* Many Christians drop out of church today because they are simply exhausted from heavy job and family responsibilities, MacDonald said. He explained that in the 1950s, a family could achieve a middle-class living standard with a total of 43 hours of employment per week. Today, it takes an average of 96 hours of family employment per week to achieve the same

standard, he said.

— *Trust quotient.* The modern culture is driven by cynicism and suspicion, MacDonald said.

— *Population mobility.* Due to an increasingly mobile society, 60-70% of an urban congregation can turn over in a 30-month period, he reported.

— *Consumerism.* The old model of church was built on the idea that people would remain loyal to church and denomination, MacDonald said. But the modern reality is that people shop around frequently, seeking the place that best meets their current needs.

— *Single-issue mentality.* "There is a tendency to find one issue and make it a litmus test," he said, citing the contemporary issues of abortion and conservative politics. "Pastors have people in their congregations who are not concerned about whether you're preaching the gospel but what you think of Bill Clinton," he said.

"The Mick" professed faith in Christ, preacher says

DALLAS (ABP) — Mickey Mantle had a deathbed conversion to Christianity, according to former teammate Bobby Richardson, who officiated at Mantle's funeral Aug. 15 at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas. Mantle supported a family therapy ministry at the church.

Richardson, a lay preacher who played with Mantle on Yankee

teams in the 1950s and '60s, ministered to the Baseball Hall of Famer during his dying days. He told those at the funeral that Mantle had long resisted but finally accepted Christ as his Savior.

Richardson encouraged fans to support the Mickey Mantle Foundation set up to promote the need for organ donors. Before his death, Mantle chose the slogan: "Be a



THE FRAGMENTS

The ministry of tears

I never saw my daddy cry. Neither did I really believe him when he said, "This is going to hurt me more than it will hurt you."

I assume my children have seen me cry... but if there is yet a strong desire, they can drop by the office almost any Monday morning.

No doubt, my daddy cried; he was just careful to hide it. An ancient Korean proverb says, "Tears are a woman's weapon," and a formidable weapon they are.

I can cry over a good dog story. Tears were shed to see a wreath of roses framing a picture of a baby in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City explosion.

Mickey Mantle's funeral — and a kid there wearing a uniform with Number 7 on it — could turn on the water works.

If you want your eyeballs to sweat, just listen to the testimony of a grown man tell how Christ turned him around. Or see a little

9-year-old girl, dressed in Sunday's finery, come forward to say, "I want to trust Jesus." Cry over the good things and you'll cry often. John Davidson said it well:

Nothing is lost that's wrought with tears:
The music that you make below
Is now the music of the spheres.

There is a ministry of tears. The Psalmist said, "I water my couch with tears" (6:6), "My tears have been my food day and night" (42:3), and "They that sow in tears shall... reap" (126:6).

Jeremiah earned the title of the "weeping prophet" and wished "my eyes were a fountain of tears" (9:1). Jesus wept and permitted a woman to wash his feet with her tears. Paul ceased not to warn the people "with tears." In Revelation 7:17, John wrote: "God shall wipe away all tears." — GH

liver transplant at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas after doctors found he had liver cancer and Hepatitis C. He was released from the hospital 20 days later and enjoyed a few weeks of peace before doctors discovered the cancer had spread to his lungs and other vital organs.

Mantle, 63, died at Baylor, a Texas Baptist hospital, Aug. 13.

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Patterson labels "weak" states out of step with conservatives

HOUSTON (ABP) — Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia are four "weak" states that have not yet fallen into line with the Southern Baptist Convention's new conservative leadership, according to seminary president Paige Patterson.

Even in those states, however, "time is on the side" of conservatives as reforms instituted by national leaders trickle down to influence grass-roots participation in denominational affairs, he said.

Patterson, an architect of the SBC's conservative juggernaut, assessed the state of the SBC in an interview published in the July issue of *Texas Baptist*, a newspaper edited by conservative leader Walter Carpenter of Houston. Carpenter also is a trustee of the 15 million-member convention's Home Mission Board.

Baptists in states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, and Georgia "realize better than most that their future is with the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board and the seminaries over and above what is going on in each particular state," Patterson said.

Those states are in contrast to others "that have not come to this realization," he continued. Asked by Carpenter if he was speaking primarily of Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia, Patterson replied: "Those and Kentucky are our four weakest states."

Patterson, since 1992 the president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., is credited — along with Texas appeals-court judge Paul Pressler — with launching the movement in 1979 that elected a string of conservative SBC presidents and steered the convention's agencies and institu-

tions sharply to the right.

Today, "time is on the side of the SBC," even in the problem states, Patterson said. The state conventions he described as "not in harmony with the SBC" are "primarily aging state conventions," he said.

In states such as Kentucky, Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia, the Baptist churches that are growing and influential "are not involved with the state convention, and they are committed to what's going on in the Southern Baptist Convention," Patterson said.

These state conventions face a situation they have "no opportunity of winning," he added. "Eventually they will have to decide whether they are going to decline perceptively or whether they want to be a part of the overall program and grow."

The four state conventions mentioned by Patterson sent a combined \$40.1 million to the SBC in 1993-94 through the Cooperative Program. That amounted to 28% of the total \$142 million the SBC received through the unified giving plan.

Yet moderate Baptists in those states have blocked several attempts to bring the state conventions in line with national conservative reforms.

Three of the four states named by Patterson have an SBC seminary within their borders. Patterson predicted changes at the seminaries will reduce moderate influence at a grass-roots level.

The election of conservative leader Mark Coppenger as president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., "will have a good effect on that part of the country," he predicted. Similarly, Albert Mohler's leadership at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., "will

mean that they recover their evangelical emphasis there."

Also, Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, under the leadership of conservative president Ken Hemphill, "will gradually have an effect on Texas," he said. Hemphill was elected last year, after trustees fired the previous president, Russell Dilday, over his moderate leanings.

Elsewhere in the question-and-answer interview, Patterson praised

Mohler and declared that "the worst of the problems" at Southern Seminary are over. "Al Mohler has the brains of Erasmus and the courage of Luther," he said.

Among Patterson's other observations in the four-page interview:

— Seminary professors should not be tenured, Patterson said. He noted he is the last faculty member at Southeastern to be granted tenure and that he "probably will renounce that tenure at some

future point."

"What tenure has amounted to across the years has been in the final analysis a fortress to protect professors so they can peddle anything they want to peddle or be as incompetent as they happen to be and still be protected in their jobs. I view that as far more like socialism than capitalism. It is no accident that the remaining bastions of socialism in America are in the universities," Patterson said.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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19 with state ties named to foreign mission posts

RICHMOND, Va. — Nineteen people with Mississippi ties were among 77 people named missionaries by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) Aug. 17 at Ridgcrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

George F. and Terri Vest Husk will live in Chile, where he will start and develop churches.

Currently he attends New Orleans Seminary, where he is working toward the doctor of philosophy degree. Since 1992 he has been pastor of Oak Hill Church in Poplarville.

Born in Bethesda, Md., Husk is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Husk of Morristown, Tenn. Husk received the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He was pastor of Iglesia Bautista Betel (Bethel Church) in Chalmette, La., minister of youth at First Church in Oliver Springs, Tenn., a FMB journeyman in Peru, and a Home Mission Board (HMB) summer missionary in Georgia.

Born in Bryan, Texas, Mrs. Husk is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Larry Vest of Calhoun, Ga.

While growing up she also lived in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Calhoun.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College and the master of arts degree from Tulane University in New Orleans.

Recently she was a Spanish teacher at Long Beach High School. She was a Spanish instructor at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, and an English as a second language instructor at Tulane University. She also was a journeyman in Peru with her husband.

The Husks have one child, Aaron Westlee, born in 1992.

Milton J.B. and Lara Burford Magalhaes will live in Lithuania, where he will establish and coordinate the training of pastors and young adult leaders.

Since 1993 he has been pastor of Shawnee Baptist Mission in Ennis, Texas.

Born and reared in Belem, Brazil, Magalhaes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Magalhaes of that city. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mobile (Ala.) College and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He was interim pastor and youth minister at Primera Iglesia Bautista (First Church) in Weatherford, Texas, and an HMB summer missionary in Pennsylvania.

Born in Shreveport, La., Mrs. Magalhaes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hall Burford of Gloster, La. She grew up in Gloster and considers it her hometown.

She received the bachelor of science in education degree from Mississippi College (MC) and also attended Southwestern Seminary. She was a HMB summer missionary in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Magalhaeses have one child, Holley Preston, born in 1995.

Donnie E. and Dimple Conerly Bond were reemployed as missionary associates. A missionary associate is a person employed for a renewable four-year term to do a particular job for which he or she is equipped by education and experience.

The Bonds will live in Austria, where he will be the pastor of an international church in Vienna.

Since 1990 he has been pastor of Blackburn Chapel Church in Shawnee, Okla. He was pastor of First Church in Cement, Okla., from 1987-90. They were missionary associates on the Caribbean island of Antigua from 1982-86.

Born in Pike County, Bond is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bond of Osyka. He considers Osyka his hometown and Silver Springs Church there his home church.

He received the associate of arts degree from Southwest Mississippi Junior College (now Southwest Mississippi Community College) in Summit, the bachelor of science in education degree from MC. He also attended Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Also born in Pike County, Mrs. Bond is the daughter of Lucille Conerly of Osyka and the late (See FMB on page 6)



George and Terri Husk



Milton and Lara Magalhaes



Donnie and Dimple Bond



Bruce and Sue Cannon



Thomas and Tammy Fox



Todd and Leslie Free

Texas Baptist funding proposal would drop gifts by \$530,000

DALLAS (BP) — In order to launch 1,400 new Texas Baptist churches in the next five years, a reduction of approximately \$530,000 in giving by the state's Baptists to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries is being proposed.

Under a proposal to be considered by the Baptist General Convention of Texas' executive board Sept. 12, the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts for Southern Baptist causes would decrease from the current 35.5% to 33% in the 1996 budget proposal, while Texas Baptist funding would increase from the current 64.5% to 67%.

Under the SBC's Cooperative Program budget, half of all gifts received are forwarded to the Foreign Mission Board, one-fifth to the HMB, and the rest to other SBC causes. The proposed reduction in Texas gifts to the SBC would be about \$530,000, if computed using Texas' fiscal 1993-94 CP gifts of \$21,185,928.

Final approval for the change in Texas Baptist CP distribution would be voted during the BGCT annual meeting, Nov. 13-14, in San Antonio.

The proposal — already approved by the BGCT administrative committee — originated with the BGCT/Home Mission Board Study Committee, which was established to study how

Texas Baptists and the HMB could work together to reach more than 8 million unchurched Texans with the gospel.

After months of meetings, including sessions with HMB staff and others, and extensive research, the committee concluded that at least 300 new Texas Baptist churches a year must be started to reach the state's diverse and rapidly growing population, said BGCT Associate Executive Director Ed Schmeltekopf, chairman of the BGCT/HMB Study Committee.

Said BGCT Executive Director William M. Pinson Jr., "In an effort to be generous, Texas Baptists for years have agreed to the least-favorable ratio of finances from the Home Mission Board of any state convention while contributing more to the Home Mission Board than any other state."

The study committee concluded that the situation in Texas has changed greatly since the arrangements were first agreed to and that new considerations are in order.

Through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program, Texas Baptists con-

tribute about \$10 million a year to the Home Mission Board and receive back about \$1 million.

Almost all of the Home Mission Board personnel and projects are jointly funded by state conventions, associations, and the Home Mission Board. In general for jointly funded personnel and projects in Texas, the Home Mission Board supplies 33% of the funding and the BGCT supplies 67%. In Florida and Oklahoma, the ratio is the reverse, according to Texas officials. These states receive back about one-third of all the funds they send to the Home Mission Board; Texas receives about a tenth.

"If Texas received the same ratio as Florida and Oklahoma, it would receive approximately \$3 million instead of \$1 million, about the additional amount needed for new work," Pinson said.

Of the 3,814 home missions personnel (not including 1,099 Mission Service Corps volunteers), 98 serve in Texas and are paid in part by the Home Mission Board to do language church extension, new church extension, and church and community ministries.



In the midst of work...

Ronald Kyzar (from left), Jackson layman; Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Sunday School Department; and Joe Armour, of First Church, Clinton, enjoyed a moment of fellowship following one of the Growing Churches Conference sessions, held July 20-22 at Gulfshore Assembly. The four conference weekends were designed to help pastors and laity find innovative ways to minister and evangelize.

B&H receives first place award for book promotion

NASHVILLE (BP) — Broadman & Holman Publishers of the Baptist Sunday School Board received the first place impact award for a total promotion campaign for books and Bibles in July from Christian retailers attending the annual Christian Booksellers Association (CBA) national convention in Denver.

Broadman & Holman was cited for its promotion of the *Experiencing God Study Bible* released in 1994.

"This is one of the highest marketing awards because it represents the opinions of retailers throughout the country," said Charles Wilson, vice president of the BSSB trade publishing group. This was the second consecutive year B&H has received an impact award. In 1994, B&H received the overall best promotional impact award.

Also at the CBA convention,

B&H hosted a breakfast to introduce a new series of resources for use in conjunction with popular speaker and author Josh McDowell's *Right from Wrong* campaign. The materials were introduced in June at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Pryor, wife of hospital administrator, dies

Mary Ruth Pryor, 75, wife of Paul Pryor, died of cancer Friday at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson on Aug. 18.

Funeral service was held Aug. 19 in Jackson, with graveside service Aug. 21 in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas.

Mrs. Pryor was a native of Calvert, Texas, and graduated from Baylor University. She

moved to Jackson in 1955 when her husband became administrator of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. She was a member of First Church, Jackson.

She is survived by her husband Paul; daughters Melinda Revell of Tallahassee, Fla., and Paula Pryor of Charleston, S.C.; son Porter Pryor of Jackson; and four grandchildren.

26 Mississippi churches share in SBC sesquicentennial anniversary

Twenty-six Mississippi Baptist churches share a common anniversary year with the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Edward McMillan, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission in Clinton.

These churches and the Southern Baptist Convention were organized in 1845, and share a sesquicentennial celebration. Churches that schedule a formal celebration ceremony and notify the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission are presented a framed certificate of commendation by the commission.

Among the celebrating churches are: Union Church, Alcorn Association; New Hope and Pine Grove, Benton; New Liberty and Spring Hill, Calhoun Association;

First Church, Houlka, Chickasaw Association; Mount Pisgah, Choctaw Association; Enterprise and Spring Hill, Clarke Association; Neely, Greene Association;

Fairview, Itawamba Association; Shady Grove First, Jasper Association; Shiloh, Lawrence Association; Border Springs, Lowndes Association; New Prospect, Monroe Association; Lyon, North Delta Association; Arkabutla and Bethel, Northwest Association; Mount Zion, Tate Association; Bethel, Pearl River Association; Dry Creek, Rankin Association; Spring Hill, Tallahatchie Association; Bethesda, Union Association; Double Springs, Webster Association; and New Hope Yalobusha Association.

These 26 churches have rendered a combined 3,900 years of service over the past 150 years.

Said McMillan: "Mississippi Baptists have every reason to celebrate enthusiastically the origin, growth, and survival of these churches during wars and panics that proved fatal to many other types of organizations."



CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL — Mission Friends of Petal First Church (Lebanon Association) learned about missions and missionaries of 150 years ago, when the Southern Baptist Convention was formed. The study culminated with an old-fashioned family picnic and SBC anniversary celebration at Carter's 1846 Cabin in Petal (above). New Providence Church in Calhoun County marked the SBC sesquicentennial, by holding a "birthday party" (below). Hostesses for the occasion were GAs (left to right) Amanda James, Tori Ard, Lori R. Murphree, Liza Haire, and Brandy James. New Providence marked its own 150th anniversary in September 1992. Rex Ard is New Providence pastor.



FMB trustees call Baptists to new evangelism heights

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptists must redouble their efforts if people who have never heard the gospel will be reached for Christ, Foreign Mission Foreign Mission Board trustees were told Aug. 13-17.

In response, they voted to commit more resources to reach the unreached, to challenge Southern Baptists to new heights of missions involvement and to cooperate with other evangelical groups to try to fulfill in this generation the biblical Great Commission mandate to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

Almost one-third of the world's population — 2,466 people groups — has never had a chance to hear the gospel, Avery Willis, FMB senior vice president for overseas services, told the trustees at their meeting at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Trustees took two actions to challenge Southern Baptists to new heights of missions commitment and involvement.

First, they endorsed the enlistment of a respected Southern Baptist pastor as a foreign missions ambassador. John Bisagno, 61, pastor of First Church, Houston, since 1970, will become a special assistant to FMB President Jerry Rankin to help the board promote foreign missions in churches, conferences, and other speaking engagements. He also will encourage fellow pastors to give higher

priority to missions involvement and support. Bisagno will remain as pastor of the 22,000-member Houston church.

Second, trustees ratified a "covenant of cooperation" with a new organization dedicated to helping Southern Baptist churches develop "personalized, prioritized" plans for missions support and involvement.

Global Focus will help Southern Baptist congregations broaden and deepen their missions programs by "strengthening traditional Southern Baptist missions channels with creative, contemporary methods that appeal to a new generation," said Larry Reesor, Global Focus executive director and a member of First Church, Woodstock, Ga.

Global Focus will help congregations design a comprehensive church program that fosters a global vision of reaching the world for Christ and offers opportunities for church members to get personally involved in local, national, and world missions, Reesor said.

In Reesor, the FMB has found a "sympathetic ear for wanting to work with us in challenging Southern Baptist churches to a new depth of vision," Jerry Rankin, FMB president, said. Reesor understands "what God is doing through Southern Baptists and sees the potential we have of fulfilling the Great Commission,"

he said.

Global Focus was founded March 27, 1995, with a board of directors that includes Bill Stafford of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Keith Thomas of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Johnny Hunt of Woodstock, Ga.; and Ken Whitten of Tampa, Fla. Bill Morgan, director of the FMB's creative access network, will be staff liaison to the organization.

The organization has signed agreements to develop missions promotion plans for First Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Idlewild Church, Tampa, Fla.; and First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla., Reesor said. It has also conducted a seminar for Dunwoody Church, Atlanta.

The trustees approved a total grant of \$200,000 for Global Focus's FMB-related expenses in 1995 and 1996.

FMB trustees also recognized Southern Baptists can't reach all the unreached and bring the world to Christ without cooperating with other evangelical groups working toward the same goal.

Board members voted to join the Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies (EFMA), a voluntary association of 110 mission organizations that send out almost 15,000 missionaries worldwide. Member groups include the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Conservative Baptists, Campus Crusade for Christ, World Vision and International Bible Societies.

Regular Bible readers report higher life satisfaction level

NEW YORK (ABP) — People who read their Bibles, attend church, and value their relationship with God are more satisfied with their lives than those who don't, according to a recent survey commissioned by the American Bible Society.

According to the study, most Americans are either very satisfied (53%) or somewhat satisfied (40%) with their overall quality of life. However, people who prioritize spiritual and moral values are more likely to be "very satisfied" with their lives than those who don't read the Bible, attend church, or prioritize moral living.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents who read the Bible at least once a week reported being very satisfied with life, compared to 49% of those who read the Bible less than once a year. Fifty-nine percent of those who attend church once a week or more reported high satisfaction, compared to 46% who don't attend church.

Americans who prioritize "leading a moral life" were more likely to be very satisfied (60%) than those who don't (39%). And 59% who said they prioritize their relationship with God were very satisfied, compared to 43% who do not value a spiritual relationship.

People who prioritize their

relationship with God were far more satisfied with their spiritual life than those who don't (69% to 30%). They also reported higher satisfaction with their family (72% to 64%), friends (70% to 61%), job (40% to 33%), physical condition (35% to 32%) and financial situation (27% to 21%).

Other survey questions assessed religious habits and attitudes and opinions about the Bible. Other findings include:

— Religion is an important priority for large numbers of Americans. Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed described "striving for a right relationship with God" as one of the one or two most important things to them. Thirty-five percent listed "leading a moral life" as a top priority, and 28% touted "a sense of spiritual well-being."

Twenty-five percent said it is important to take care of responsibilities to others, 13% to maintain physical fitness and 12% to achieve in their careers. Nine percent said a top priority is to have enough money to get the things they want and 7% rated the "ability to afford a few luxuries" as one of their top two priorities.

— Americans go to church about as often as they eat out. Fifty-five percent say they attend church at least weekly while 53%

go out for dinner once a week. Far fewer Americans say they read a novel (27%), buy a lottery ticket (25%), participate in competitive sports (11%), go dancing (10%) or go to the movies (9%) at least once a week.

Ninety-five percent watch television, 88% read a newspaper and 74% exercise sometime during the week, the study reported.

— Most Americans own and read the Bible. Twenty-four percent read their Bibles daily and 23% at least once a week, according to the survey. Fifty-nine percent read it at least once a month.

Home Missions study kit offered at reduced rate

The Home Mission Study Complete Planning Kit, which contains resource material for the 1996 emphasis on home missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, is available until Sept. 30 for \$28.95, a savings of \$10 off the regular price.

Kits at the discounted price are available only through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) in Atlanta. To order, call HMB customer services at (800) 634-2462, and request order number SL-95.

"Each church will need the home mission study kit. Now is a wonderful time to secure this material at a reduced rate," said Marjean Patterson, director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

Thursday, August 24, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



'95 Family Week

More than 230 participants from 31 churches across Mississippi attended '95 Family Week July 3-6 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. John and Lela Hendrix of Louisville, Ky., led the participants in intergenerational activities designed to join diverse age groups in Bible activities and games to build family relationships. In the photo above, blended families group together to learn about and worship God. '96 Family Week is scheduled for Gulfshore Assembly July 1-5, 1996.

Mississippi minister among survivors of Ga. commuter plane crash

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Gulf Coast pastor Steven R. Wilkinson, 34, is in an Atlanta burn center after surviving the Aug. 21 commuter plane crash in Georgia that killed four people.

Wilkinson, who recently resigned as pastor of Popps Ferry Church in Biloxi, was admitted to Grady Memorial Hospital's burn unit in Atlanta with first and second degree burns on his face and chest, as well as third degree burns on his legs and ankles, according to Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport.

His injuries are serious but not expected to be life-threatening, Perry pointed out.

Perry said Wilkinson, who is single, was returning to the Gulf Coast from Illinois, where he met with a pastor search committee in the western portion of that state.

His uncle, Elwin Wilkinson, pastored in Perkinson for many years

and is currently pastoring in Illinois. His late grandfather, pastor Ian Wilkinson Sr., was considered by many people as "Mr. Baptist on the Gulf Coast," Perry added.

"Steve is a super pulpiteer," Perry said.

Attempts to contact Wilkinson's parents, who are Gulf Coast residents, were unsuccessful.

Wilkinson received his master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1986. He is also a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Gulfport High School in Gulfport.

Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA) flight 529 took off from Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta at about 12:30 p.m. for the 362-mile flight to Gulfport.

The twin engine, Brazilian-made Embraer 120 aircraft went down about 15 minutes later, crash-landing in a field five miles southwest of Carrollton, Ga., with 26 passengers and three crew members aboard.

Early reports indicated the pilot radioed that the plane was having engine problems, and he may have been attempting to reach Carrollton airport eight miles to the north. The unidentified pilot was killed in the crash.

Eyewitnesses said the 66-foot-long plane broke in half behind the cockpit and caught fire after it slammed into the ground. Many of the surviving passengers were able to walk away from the mangled fuselage, but most suffered serious burns.

It was not known at press time whether other Mississippians were on ASA flight 529.

FMB

From page 3

Frank Conerly. She also considers Osyka her hometown and Silver Springs her home church.

She received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. She also attended Southwest Mississippi Junior College and MC.

The Bonds, who have four grown children, will return to the field in December.

Bruce R. and Sue Behrens Cannon will live in the Middle East and North Africa area, where he will work in theological education.

Since 1989 they have been HMB church planters in Montana. Currently he is pastor of University Church in Missoula, which they helped start in 1993. From 1989-93 he was pastor of Lincoln School Church in Missoula, which they also helped start.

Born in Rantoul, Ill., Cannon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Cannon of Anchorage, Alaska. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Criswell College in Dallas and the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

He was an HMB summer missionary in Colorado and minister of youth and music at Weaver (Texas) Church and First Church in Whitewright, Texas. While in seminary he was director of singles at Colonial Hills Church in Southaven.

Born in Dallas, Mrs. Cannon is the daughter of Ica Behrens of Garland, Texas, and the late Benjie Behrens. She considers Garland her hometown and Orchard Hills Church there her home church.

She received the bachelor of science in nursing degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton and also attended East Texas State University in Commerce.

Since 1989 she has been a nurse in pediatrics at Community Hospital in Missoula. She was a nurse in pediatrics at LeBonhuer Children's Hospital in Memphis and a FMB journeyman in Yemen.

The Cannons have two children:

Samuel Benjamin, born in 1985; and Joshua Caleb, 1986.

Thomas E. and Tammy Mueller Fox will live in Moldova, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1990 he has been pastor of Bethlehem Church in Morton.

Born in Pascagoula, Fox is the son of Betty Fox of Irvington, Ala., and the late William J. Fox. His father was pastor of First Church in Irvington.

Fox received the associate of arts degree from Clarke College in Newton, the bachelor of arts degree from MC, and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He was pastor of Steele Church in Forest.

Born and reared in Moundsville, W. Va., Mrs. Fox is the daughter of Stella Littleton and John R. Mueller, both of that city.

She received the associate of arts degree from Clarke College and the bachelor of science in education degree from MC. Since 1993 she has been a teacher with Scott County Schools.

The Foxes have two children: Tabitha Sue, born in 1983; and John William, 1984.

G. Todd and Lesley Laird Free and will live in south Brazil, where he will work as the religious education consultant for the Santa Catarina state Baptist convention.

Since 1994 he has been the administrator of Northeast Louisiana Baptist School in West Monroe and minister of youth at Highland Church there, where he previously served as minister of education and youth.

Born in Longview, Texas, Free is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Free of Delhi, La. He received the bachelor of science degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston and the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

He was minister of youth at First Church in Delhi and Start (La.) Church. He also made a mission trip to Romania.

Born in Vicksburg, Mrs. Free is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Laird of Delhi. She received the bachelor of science degree from Louisiana Tech University and also attended Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.

Since 1991 she has been preschool coordinator at Highland Church, West Monroe, La.,

and a kindergarten teacher at Northeast Louisiana Baptist School since 1994. She also was a teacher with the Fort Worth Independent School District and made a mission trip to Romania with her husband.

The Frees have two children: Ashley Elizabeth, born in 1988; and Emily Lauren, 1991.

Christopher B. and Karen Goforth Harbin will live in south Brazil, where he will develop a theological education by extension program.

Since 1994 he has been pastor of Iglesia Bautista "Cristo Te Ama," an Hispanic mission of First Church in Aiken, S.C.

Born in Clinton, S.C., Harbin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Byron Harbin, missionaries to Brazil. While growing up he also lived in Hattiesburg and Sao Paulo and Recife, Brazil. He considers Hattiesburg his hometown and Iglesia Bautista "Cristo Te Ama" his home church. McLaurin Church, Pearl, also was influential in his life.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from MC and the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He was an FMB church planter apprentice in Mexico, an ethnic liaison for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, and a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Brazil.

Born in Camden, S.C., Mrs. Harbin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel T. Goforth Jr. of Aiken. She received the bachelor of arts degree from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C., and the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

She was an FMB church planter in Mexico with her husband and a research assistant at Norton Hospital in Louisville.

Burton A. and Suzanne Burgreen Schmitz will live in Togo, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1993 he has been associate pastor of family ministries at First Church in Sonoma, Calif.

Born in Ancon, Panama, Schmitz is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.G. Schmitz of Carrollton. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Blue Mountain College and the master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He also attended Clarke College in Newton. He served in the U.S.



Chris and Karen Harbin

Navy and was associate pastor of First Southern Church in San Diego, Calif.

Born and reared in San Diego, Mrs. Schmitz is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad L. Burgreen Jr. of that city. She received the associate of arts degree from San Diego Mesa College and the bachelor of science degree from Christian Heritage College in El Cajon, Calif. She also attended San Diego State University and National University, also in San Diego.

Martha M. Taylor has been named a representative of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Taylor will live in east Asia, where she will develop CSI-related projects in developing nations.

Recently she was a Southern Baptist worker in Asia.

Born in Atlanta, Taylor is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor of Hattiesburg. She also lived in Lucedale and Hattiesburg. She considers Hattiesburg her hometown and Immanuel Baptist her home church. Temple Church in Hattiesburg and First Church, Jackson, also were influential in her Christian growth.

She received the bachelor of science in education degree from MC and also attended the Brea (Calif.) extension of Golden Gate Seminary.

She was children's director at Immanuel Church and a staff member of Campus Crusade for

Christ, both in San Bernardino, and a Southern Baptist summer worker in Illinois.

E. Timothy and Janet (Jan) Hannaford Webb will live in Argentina, where he will start and develop churches.

Since 1993 he has been pastor of First Church of Helena in Pascagoula.

Born in Biloxi, Webb is the son of Christine Webb of Moss Point, and the late Elvin Webb. While growing up he also lived in Ocean Springs and Moss Point. He considers Ocean Springs his hometown and First Church, Moss Point, his home church.

He received the bachelor of science degree from MC and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He also attended William Carey College in Hattiesburg, the University of Mississippi, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. He was a chaplain in the U.S. Navy.

Born in Clarkesdale, Mrs. Webb is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Hannaford of Moss Point. Her father is a retired Southern Baptist minister of music. While growing up she also lived in New Orleans, Columbia, and Moss Point. She also considers Moss Point her hometown and First Church there her home church.

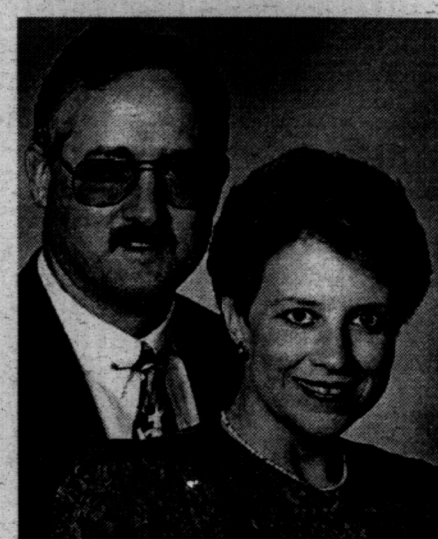
She received the bachelor of music degree and teacher's certificate from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. She also attended MC.

Recently she was a teacher with Moss Point School System. She was music director and pianist at the U.S. Navy chapels in Japan and North Carolina.

The Webbs have two children: Laura Ellen, born in 1987; and Hanna Elizabeth, 1991.



Burton and Suzanne Schmitz



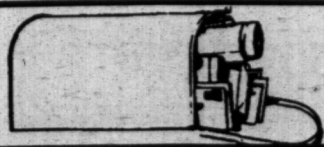
Timothy and Jan Webb



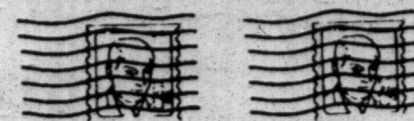
MC sponsors ministers' golf tourney

Nearly 70 ministers from across Mississippi played in a ministers' golf tournament held Aug. 7 at Live Oaks Golf Club near Clinton. The tournament kicked off the first-ever Institute on Christian Leadership, sponsored

by Mississippi College. The participants are pictured above. Neel Grantham and Barry Lyall, both of Clinton, won the Championship Flight of the tournament.



Letters to the editor



Seeking new pastor

Editor:

Bethel International Baptist Church is a congregation of approximately 50 families, composed of about 12 nationalities, located in Frankfurt, Germany, the travel hub and a major financial center of Europe. The pastor is retiring at the end of August, and we are searching for a pastor. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English language) and has its roots in the Southern Baptist Convention. We are also related to the German Baptist Union, the European Baptist Federation, and the Baptist World Alliance. We adhere to The Baptist Faith and Message as our doctrinal guideline. All recommendations or resumes should be sent to the following address: Bethel Pastor Search Committee, 40th Postal Company, Unit 20230 Box 151F, APO AE 09165.

Fred Wallstead
Chairman of Deacons

Looking for history

Editor:

The First Church of Pontotoc will celebrate its 150th anniversary on July 28, 1996. We need pictures of the following pastors:

William H. Holcomb — 1951 (six months)

J.J. Mayfield — 1918-19
J.L. Robinson — 1920-24
E.L. Davis — 1925-28
W.L. Slack — 1852-80
E.A. Seale — 1878-79

Early pastors:

Elijah Smith — 1846-48
J.E. Morton — 1848-49
Henry H. Tucker — 1851-52

If you can help us, it would be appreciated. Send these photos to:

First Baptist Church
31 Washington St.
Pontotoc, MS 38863

News from Ukraine

Editor:

Fourth of July! What a different adventure it was to recently celebrate the freedom of America in a country that had only had freedom for a few short years. Determined to do it "the American way," we made plans for a picnic at the local park. The menu was all-American with baked beans, potato salad, chocolate cake, and even fried chicken. We even had an American flag tablecloth and napkins, and the "fixins" for some-mores, compliments of friends from Mississippi.

Last week, I met an 83-year-old woman. She was a ray of sunshine from the first moment we met. As I entered her home, I felt as if I was in a museum. It was incredible. Yet, as I left, I saw on her table her Bible, opened with her thick glasses for cataract eyes perched on top. In a nonchalant way, she told me she had read her Bible every day since becoming a believer. When questioned about the times when Bibles were seized and burned, her simple answer

spoke volumes. "I didn't give them mine!" she calmly replied. She said through everything that her Bible had given her freedom.

So many of you have been so faithful to "hold the ropes" for me since I have been here. This, along with the cards and letters I receive have greatly encouraged me in my ministry.

Becky DeWett
c/o Mike Norfleet
3-A L. Tolstogo
Kiev-4, 252004
Ukraine

Glad he's not mine

Editor:

I really can't believe (the item "Pastors: Lighten up!", Aug. 10 issue) appeared on the front page or any other page of **The Baptist Record**. I'm glad Dennis Swanberg is not my pastor. Is this what he is teaching young preachers? When he takes his glasses off next time, maybe his intellect will increase.

Peggy Humphreys
Blue Springs

Let's get serious

Editor:

I am writing in regard to an article in the paper on Thursday, Aug. 10 ("Pastors: Lighten up!").

The time allotted for preaching on Sunday morning and evening is not to be used trying to get the audience to laugh; preaching from the Word of God is what is needed.

Silliness has no place in the pulpit. Imitating such people is uncalled for.

I believe we should be happy and have joy in our hearts from knowing the Lord and speak and laugh with our Christian friends at church, but when it's time for church, let's do some serious business.

Helen Jones
Foxworth

Didn't speak for all

Editor:

For several weeks I have been hoping that some reader would disagree with the politically correct apology made by our Southern Baptist leaders to the descendants of American slavery. I really didn't expect them to have time to make this statement. For a number of years at each meeting they are so busy in-fighting and pulling in three directions trying to decide which group will have the most control over the organization that they hardly have time for anything else. After this apology, what will they do for an encore? How about telling the Indians that we regret the way our forefathers took their land, forcing them onto barren western reservations, and then when valuable minerals were discovered on the reservations, cheating them out of that, too.

In this latest slavery thing, they didn't apologize for me. I may have to suffer the consequence of actions by my ancestors, but God does not

hold me accountable for their sins, only mine. It seems that our Southern Baptist leaders have been so carried away by their internal power struggles that they fail to notice the rapid moral deterioration of this country. We have the most immoral government administration ever seen by our nation, and yet I have not seen, or heard one of these Baptist leaders speak out against such a mess. One question for every reader: If Jesus in person came to spend a few days, which of our regular TV programs would we be comfortable watching in his presence? We are all a bunch of hypocrites.

Lamar Wray
Kilmichael

Good to remember

Editor:

I read your (editorial) in the Aug. 10 issue about "A braver soldier" with great joy. It is good to know that our state convention has not forgotten men like Mark Perrin Lowrey.

It saddens me to know that this is the type of men that our national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has apologized for. The generation, the Confederate service to their country, have been cast down by the national leaders of our denomination. Perhaps you could forward a copy of your story to the president of the SBC so he can see just how "bad" our early Baptist leaders were. My great-great grandfather also served the cause of Southern independence and was a Baptist minister in Wayne County, Miss., after the (Civil) War. He was a private and a simple man, but he carried the gospel to all who would listen.

Thank you for publishing such a story as this. It paints the true picture of early Southern Baptists. We should be proud of them, not apologizing for them.

Howard E. Patrick Jr.
Laurel

Tribute to pastor

Editor:

As (Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, and his wife Jill) come and go, they join the procession of some of Mississippi's greatest preachers. They built on the foundation of Maellen and Russell McIntire who had a long and constructive ministry, and have come back to the church and become a model for semi-retired ministers wearing with pride the mantle of a fruitful ministry.

Among those of us who know (Bill Baker), there will be no tears in his departure because we know this is nothing more than a temporary landing and there is a long flight of service yet before him. The manner of presentation of his preaching of the gospel is as unique as his personality. He's a close student of the Bible — like a connoisseur searches for gems in the diamond field. He never spends time trying to titillate his audience with quotes from prominent scholars. He trusts the Holy Spirit to reveal to him truth as he revealed it

to Spurgeon, Talmadge, Luther, or Barth. He not only found Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he found Eldad and Hedad.

To (Bill) Baker, the Bible has one theme, one story, and one message. It's a book written in religious language about Jesus.

One wonders if Baker has not lived two lives in as much as his father was taken from him at the age of 18. He had lost not only a father but a pal and he was determined that his life must count. God has smiled upon him, gracing him with a good body and a sharing and caring companion who multiplies his every joy and divides his every care. He leaves as a monument to his labor beautiful buildings that grace the Mississippi College campus. He enthroned himself in the hearts of not only the people of his church, but was a blessing to the entire community.

C.Z. Holland
Clinton

Where to draw line?

Editor:

In my homeroom class at South Panola High School I met Abdullah, originally from Saudi Arabia. We became friends. Soon after the school year started, he asked me why students read a Bible verse,

and give a devotion every morning. I told him we're keeping God in school to keep crime, guns, and drugs out. He said, "Oh." So one day at lunch, Abdullah dropped to his knees, faced Mecca, and began to pray. I told him he couldn't do that. Why?

"Because... well... because..."

What would you have told Abdullah? "Because your prayer isn't right," or "Because our prayer is to God." What would your reason have been to deny him his religious freedom?

Abdullah is fictitious, but I figured it would be difficult to get some persons Heaven-bent on school prayer, etc., to listen. Is it too late? Will you not consider this: Should followers of Islam be able to stop school to pray at noon? Why not? Does the First Amendment protect just Christians? Does it protect just Baptists? I thought it protected religion. What percentage of Muslims must attend school before they are allowed their prayer in the morning? If your children were in the minority, and Orientals were the majority, would you want them to hear Buddha every morning? Prayers to Allah at lunch time? It's either every religion or no religion.

Billy Davis
Batesville



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I recently found out that my husband of 20 years has a child by another woman, who he is still seeing. I want to leave him but he has terminal cancer. What should I do?

First of all, stay active in your church and spend time in God's Word. You should exercise, and you should find a Christian counselor who can help you sort out all these issues. Questions for which you should find answers include:

— Why does your husband continue the relationship with the other woman? He has a responsibility to his child, but his first loyalty should be to you, his wife.

— What does his doctor say about the cancer? Since your trust has been broken in other areas, can you believe him about the cancer?

Obviously, he is divided in his affections toward you. Your responsibility is to love him as Christ loves you, but you must also speak the truth in love and call him to accountability for his actions. By finding good outlets for yourself like church, the Bible, exercise, and counseling, you will build the support and

energy necessary to press on to whatever decisions you feel the Lord is leading you to make.

I lost my two sons in a custody battle with my ex-husband. How do I deal with the deep grief and sense of loss I feel?

Loss is never easy, especially when it comes to a mother's loss of her children. Even though your ex-husband has custody, you will always be their mother. Don't let anger, hurt, rage, bitterness, and resentment prevent you from loving your sons. Remember them in your prayers, and with cards, telephone calls, and visits when possible. They may act as if they don't want anything to do with you because of their deep need for acceptance and approval from their father. There will come a time, however, when they will want to reestablish their relationship with you if they know you have always loved them. Be sure that anyone involved with you in a future relationship knows how you feel about your sons; don't let anything get in the way of loving your children. If anything does separate them from your love, the devil scores another win.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Names in the News

Mississippi College Director of Admissions Jim Turcotte recently received his Doctor of



Turcotte

Philosophy degree from the University of North Texas in Denton. Turcotte, who received his Master of Arts degree in Religious Education from Southwestern Seminary in 1986, has been working at MC since 1994. The son of Ernest and Eleanor Turcotte of Clinton, he is married to the former Jenny Turner of Columbia. They have three children.

William Carey College on the Coast has a full time director of the Baptist Student Union. She is **Janie Baylis**, who also has been employed since 1994 as director of student activities. Baylis is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. She has served as minister of education at Bethel Church, Monticello.

Roger Dale Tadlock II of Morton was the sole Mississippi recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). CBF has awarded scholarships totaling \$67,750 to 53 students in more than 22 schools, 16 states, and six foreign countries for the 1995-96 academic year. Individuals awarded scholarships attend and represent a variety of vocational callings from pastors and missionaries to theology instructors, therapists, chaplains, and those studying for careers in social or urban ministries.

Angel Martinez, one of Southern Baptists' most renowned evangelists, died early Aug. 17 in a Ft. Smith, Ark., hospital following a bout with a respiratory infection.

Revival Dates

Lake Washington First, Glen Allan: Aug. 27-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bob Smith, Pilot Point, Texas, evangelist; Riley Harper, Greenville, music; Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 27-30; Sunday, homecoming services, 11 a.m., Danny Berry, Galilee Church, Rankin County, guest speaker; dinner followed with special music by The New Wine; revival, Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Danny Berry, evangelist; Gerald L. Aultman, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): Aug. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Luther Price, Clarksdale, evangelist; DeWayne Tanton, Pine Bluff, Ark., music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

First, Pecan Grove: Aug. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fel-

lowship hall, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Cresswell, evangelist; Jim Taylor, music.

Hickory (Newton): Sept. 3-8; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; David Sellers, Tylertown, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music; Rodney Anderson, pastor.

New Haven (Choctaw): Sept. 10-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bubba Dees, Columbus, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville, music; John Crump, pastor.

He was 73. "If he had lived to Sept. 5, he would have celebrated 60 years in the ministry," said Steve Taylor, Brentwood, Tenn., music evangelist who worked with Martinez for 41 years. Martinez held more than 1,500 revival/crusades during his ministry, and returned to some churches as many as 10 times. Conservative estimates are that more than 500,000 people were converted during his years of preaching, most in Southern Baptist churches.

Markus Schirmer, a renowned Austrian pianist, will open William Carey College's 1995-96 Concert Series with his performance on Aug. 25. The concert is free of charge to the public and will be held at 7 p.m. in Smith Auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Building on the Hattiesburg campus.

Retired missionary Marie Conner, one of the first four Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Taiwan, died Aug. 11 at a hospital in Waycross, Ga., after suffering a stroke at home. She was 80. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1944, Conner worked 36 years among Chinese people in China and Taiwan. After two years of language study, she taught in Baptist schools in Yangchow and Shanghai, China, living under the communist regime in Shanghai for more than a year.

Earl Barron was ordained to the gospel ministry by Ingram Church, Prentiss Association, on Aug. 6. He has been called as pastor of the Dry Creek Church, Tippah Association. Clayton Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church.

Emmitt Cross, 94, of Falkner died Aug. 6 at Tippah County Hospital. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Violet Mae Roach Cross. Funeral services were held Aug. 8 with burial in

Falkner Cemetery. A Baptist minister for 73 years, Cross held pastorates in Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Michigan. Survivors include three sons, James E. Cross, David J. Cross, and Dale W. Cross; two daughters, Shirley A. Murphree and Joyann Bullock; one brother; 17 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Mississippi College recently announced that **Pete Smith** has been employed as director of sports information.



Smith

Smith, a native of Oxford who holds a bachelor of science degree in mass communication from Mississippi College, will coordinate sports-related communications activities. Smith has been involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the M-Club, and has served as an athletic trainer for Mississippi College.

Nancy Hastings Sehested, a pioneer woman minister in the Southern Baptist Convention, has resigned as senior pastor of Prescott Memorial Church in Memphis, a post she has held since 1987. Sehested has accepted a position as writer-in-residence for Sunset Ministries, an ecumenical retreat center in Lake Junaluska, N.C. She also plans to work weekends at the Sunset Inn, a bread-and-breakfast operated by friends.

Homecomings

Bethel, Hazlehurst: Aug. 27; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., covered dish meal; and a singing service; Ricky Kennedy, guest speaker; Bob Mack, pastor.

Short Creek, Yazoo City: Aug. 27; 10 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; 1 p.m. service; James Allgood, Vaughan, evangelist; Johnny Catlett, Sataria, guest singer; Norris Ables, pastor.

First, Glendale, Hattiesburg: Aug. 27; Bible study, 9:30 a.m.;

New Haven Church, Choctaw Association, has called **John H. Crump** as pastor.



Crump

A native of Starkville, Crump graduated from Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served churches in Pearl River, Clay, and Oktibbeha associations.

Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, has called **Tal Vardaman** as music director.



Vardaman

He and his wife, the former Cindy Cooper of Morton, are in charge of the adult, youth, and children's choirs. He previously served at Springfield Church, Morton. "Mike" Glenn is pastor.

Rick Alford has resigned as director of the **Baptist Student Union** at North-



Alford

west Mississippi Community College (NWCC) in Senatobia. A graduate of Clarke College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary, he served 12 years at NWCC.

worship; dinner on the grounds; and praise service following lunch; Billy Skinner, former pastor, guest speaker; Jennie Lou Breland, music.

Euclatubba, Saltillo: Aug. 27; "old-fashioned" day; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing and cemetery meeting following lunch; no night service; James White, guest speaker; John Hearn, pastor.

Staff Changes

Bill R. Baker, pastor of Clinton's First Church for more than 22 years, has resigned effective Dec. 31, or before, should his successor be called. Speaking to the congregation about the past,



Baker

present, and future, he was careful to avoid the word "retirement." A country-gospel singer and guitarist, Baker plans to devote part of his time to leading worship services using the pedal steel, electric, and acoustic guitars. He will also be involved in some facets of country music and will release a new album by January. Baker and his wife Jill will continue to live at 218 Mount Salus, Clinton, MS 39056, where she teaches private piano lessons.

Just for the Record

Bethlehem Church, Ackerman, will celebrate its 160th birthday on Aug. 27. Brotherhood breakfast will start at 8 a.m. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. with worship services and dinner on the ground. After dinner there will be singing and old timers day. The ordination of Dan Blake will be held at 3 p.m.



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Just for the Record



First Church, Columbia, recently held a recognition service and reception for its Acteens. They are (left to right): Queens, Wendy Davis, Tara Warner, and Erin VanHorn. Queens with Scepter are Maybert Bourn, Celia Pittman, and Lee Stringer; Queens Regent are Caty Bird and Karen Swann. Leaders are Toni Davis, Lisa Stringer, and Beverly Swann.



RAs of Wynndale Church, Terry, were recognized for their accomplishments during the school year. Pictured, from left, front row, are Andy Waldrop, Bradley Swindoll, and David Miller; second row, Matt McDonald and Charles Weathersby; third row, Matt Johnson, Justin Dillard, and P.J. Waldrop. Leaders, back row, are Jim Johnson, Jeff Lofton, Steve Stovall, and Clint Turner. Charles Gentry is pastor.



The youths of Antioch Church, Brandon, recently attended Student Life Camp on top of Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tenn., during the week of July 17-21. Marion Spence is pastor.

Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, has exceeded its goal of \$600 for the Baptist Children's Village, collecting a final total of \$699.65. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth, has rescheduled its one-day Preaching Conference, originally set for Aug. 7.

The new date is Aug. 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the church at (601) 287-2764. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Antioch Church, Lawrence Association, recently presented the play, "The Lottie Moon Story" at their awards recognition service. Pictured (left to right) are:

Mission Friends (at right) Angela Lofton, Cody King, Bethany Boyd,

LeAnna Kellogg, Kristin McGuffee, Courtney McGuffee, Sherri Kyzar, assistant, and Amanda Boyd, leader;

GAs (top) Ginger Hutcherson, Danica Boyd, Rebecca Taylor, Amber McGuffee, Jessica Lofton, Brenda Herring, assistant, and Jewel Kellogg, leader (not pictured are Lesli Hill and Stephanie Thames); and

RAs (middle), Clint King, Kevin Herring, Adam McGuffee, Justin Kyzar, Jeremy Herring, Jason Kyzar, Kathy King, Lads director, Debra McGuffee, Crusaders director, and Jimmy Beeson, campcraft counselor (not pictured are Darren Givens, John Thames, and Josh Taylor). The church grew from 23 to 57 in less than a year. The membership is now 63. Jackie Cooke is pastor.

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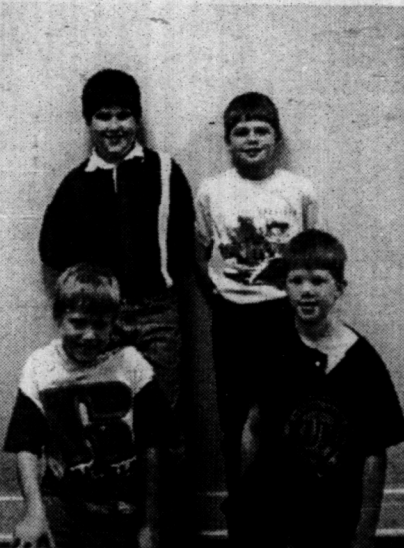
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The third grade RAs of First Church, Columbia, made and sold angel pins and collected \$430 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They also sold popcorn and cookies at their basketball games to raise \$160 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.



Highland Church, Vicksburg, held recognition services for Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens. Those recognized (left to right) are:

Mission Friends, (at right) David Cochran, Ryan Richardson, Tyler Brown, Brandi McAdory, and Hayley Boyd. Vicky Brown and Amanda Richardson are leaders.

GAs (top photo) are: first row, Erin Woerner, Keri Hadnett, Amanda Gettner, Andrea Jennings, Christen Amick; second row, Crystal Cochran, Leigh Ann Van Devender, Laura Beth Steen, Brittany Breazeale, Jennifer Jennings; third row, Marla Richardson, Teri Burch, Amy Binns, Kayla Conrad, Jessica Rickles, Lauren Newton, and Louann Amick. Joyce Shinn and Robin Herrington are leaders.

Acteens (middle photo) are: row 1, Rachel Patten, Tina Shinn, Tracy Grodon; row 2, Melanie Herrington, Melissa Herrington, Tyanne Conrad, Mindy Shinn; row 3, Gina Hull, Whitney Richardson, Amanda Richardson, Carrie Handley, and Erin Loper. Jackie Richardson and Sonya Upton are leaders.



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Just for the Record



West Heights Church, Pontotoc, recently presented the youth musical "Salt & Light." The combined youth choirs, 107 singers and a small instrumental ensemble, consisted of Clarksdale Church; First Church, Pontotoc; First Church, Shannon; and West Heights Church. The musical was also presented at Clarksdale Church with

the choirs from Clarksdale and West Heights participating. Those two choirs also presented the musical at Gulfshore Assembly during the Heartsong week. The ministers of music are Hugh Plunkett, Clarksdale; Mickey Gentry, First, Pontotoc; Jim Armstrong, First, Shannon; and James Francis, West Heights.



Harmony Church, Union County, recently had an Acteens coronation service under the theme "God's Beautiful Bouquet." Acteens crowned as Queen (from left) are Marianne Manning, Mandy McCullough, Deanna Cobb, leader, Robin Booze, Courtney Gregory, and April Simpson. Robert L. Daniel is pastor.

Missionary News

Gregory and Karen Massey, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Sucursal 5, Casilla de Correo 11, 1900 La Plata, Argentina). They are natives of Meridian. She is the former Karen Lawson.

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The GAs of Fairview Church, Columbus, were recently honored in a Recognition Service. GA groups pictured are 1st-3rd grade (above) and 4th-6th grade (top photo). Mickey Dalrymple is pastor.

Missionary News

Bob and Dianne McNamee, missionaries to Ecuador, are in the States (address: 314 S. 23rd Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401). He is from Jackson, and she, the former Dianne Kea, was born in Kosciusko and considers Raymond her hometown.

David and Mary Sills, missionaries to Ecuador, are on the field (address: Casilla 17-03-533, Quito, Ecuador). He is a native of Jackson. The former Mary Phillips, she was born in Alexandria, La., and considers Jackson her hometown.



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Uniform Warnings for wisdom



By Andy Brasher
Proverbs 20

Many people don't realize that alcohol is a drug, defined as such in the **Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders III** (1980). According to the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse, "Alcohol dependence is without question the most serious drug problem today."

Nearly 70% of Americans today drink to one degree or another, the largest percentage ever. Ten percent of all Americans are considered, by recent information, heavy drinkers. To be considered a heavy drinker, one must down two or more drinks (at least 24 ounces of beer, 10 ounces of wine, or three ounces of 86-proof liquor) daily. Even more startling, about 10% of all drinkers, roughly 7% of the population, will eventually become problem drinkers or alcoholics. That represents 20 million people, more than six times the number of alcoholics in the USA in 1950, which was only 3 million.

Alcoholism is now the third leading cause of death in this country and a major contributor in teen suicide. Over half of all highway accidents and fatalities are alcohol-related. Just under half of all alcoholics have at least some college education and are white-collar workers.

Nearly two-thirds of all Protestants in this country now claim to drink at least socially. This statistically means that 10% will become problem drinkers or alcoholics. In the last two decades, there has been a rapid increase in this phenomenon among conservative, evangelical Christians. Drinking alcohol has become more accepted as an everyday part of life with only 30% of the population reporting total abstinence, the lowest percentage in decades. The abuse of alcohol is a real problem. I should know; my father is a recovering alcoholic.

Like many children in this nation, I grew up in an alcoholic family. The emotional and psychological scars left behind are numerous. I've seen firsthand what alcoholism can do to a family; it can utterly destroy it. In an alcoholic family there is constant fear of mental and possibly physical abuse. The fear that others in the community and church will discover your family's dark secret becomes nearly debilitating. In a sense, the sober members in an alcoholic family are held captive by a drug that impedes the joy of family life.

Solomon writes in Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." The word "deceived" in the Hebrew means to be led astray or to sin through ignorance. We are not to let alcohol, through blind ignorance, lead us astray. The effects of its abuse are well-documented. Ignorance is one thing, foolishness is entirely another. The verse tells us that if we are deceived, wisdom ceases and foolishness reigns. The word for "wise" used in this verse literally means to show thyself wise in mind, word, and deed. Therefore, we are wise when we do not allow alcohol to lead us astray. By our temperance, we demonstrate our prudence.

In all honesty, the Bible never condemns the use of alcohol, but it does speak unkindly of alcohol abuse. In Philippians 4:5 Paul writes; "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." The latter is precisely the point. If we would live each day as if it were the day Christ would return, our use of alcohol would be moderate and possibly non-existent.

If you are a Christian alcoholic or problem drinker, please remember and believe in this verse from the pen of the apostle Paul: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

(Statistical and demographic data provided by the Minirth-Meier Clinic.)

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book Danger: Be wise!



By Larry McDonald
Proverbs 20 & 23

A "Dear Abby" column recorded the following letter from a longtime member of an Alcoholics Anonymous group:

I drank for happiness and became unhappy.
I drank for joy and became miserable.
I drank for sociability and became argumentative.
I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
I drank for sleep and woke up tired.
I drank for strength and felt weak.
I drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
I drank for courage and became afraid.
I drank for confidence and became doubtful.
I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech.
I drank to feel heavenly, and ended up feeling like hell.

Alcohol has a corrupting power; the Bible therefore warns against being led astray by it (Prov 20:1). We are warned that wine and beer lead to mockery of the things of God as well as physical violence. Proverbs associates drunkenness with poverty (23:20-21), strife (23:29-30) and injustice (31:4-5).

We must ask ourselves what would be wise action regarding alcohol? In Proverbs 23:19-20 we are told the wise person stays away from those who abuse alcohol, therefore keeping his heart on the right path.

But why is there wisdom in avoiding alcohol? Because in avoiding alcohol one can avoid the effects of drunkenness (23:21, 29-30). The effects of drunkenness are destruction. This destruction is seen in relationships. Often the ones who suffer the most are the ones closest to the alcoholic. This destruction is also seen in loss of resources. The squandering of money on alcohol is very common. This inappropriate use of money often leaves little to provide for the necessities of life. Finally, there is a destruction of righteousness. When alcohol controls a person's life, the choices made are often away from God and his standards.

There is a dangerous deception in alcohol. We are warned of its bite and poison that is like a snake (23:31-32). This deception has a physical seduction. At first it feels good. But the end results are devastating. This deception also has a social seduction. At first it seems to bring more friends. But the end results are just the opposite. Finally, there is a spiritual seduction. The more alcohol controls a person's life, the less God is involved. Alcohol is dangerous and deceptive.

The results of addiction to alcohol are threefold (23:33-35). First, there is a loss of touch with reality. Second, there is a loss of rational judgment. Third, there is a loss of memory.

The following story appeared in **The Humor Connection**: It was time for some Friday night fun and fellowship. The three couples decided to treat themselves to a steak dinner. When they arrived at the steak house, they were assigned a number, sent to a crowded, noisy room and told to wait there until their number was called.

As they waited, a cocktail waitress came by and said, "Welcome to happy hour, what would you like to drink?" The three couples graciously declined anything from the bar.

"Just waiting for a table," they said.

Fifteen minutes later, the waitress came by again with the same invitation. Again, the couples informed her that they were waiting for a table.

Five minutes later she returned. One of them had mentioned to his wife that their table was probably being delayed in hopes that they would first order something from the bar. So when the girl came by with her, "Welcome to happy hour" speech again, the wife informed her, "Girl, we are all Baptists and this is as happy as we're going to get, so tell them to get us a table!"

Never let it be said that we are ashamed to stand for abstinence from alcohol.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work Beer into furniture



By Bob Rogers
Proverbs 20 & 23

An alcoholic had spent so much of the family's income on liquor that there was no money left to buy furniture. Then he trusted in Christ, and with the help of Christian friends, the Lord freed him of his habit. His family not only grew closer, but was better off financially.

One day this converted alcoholic was speaking out against drinking, when a man challenged him: "Didn't Jesus turn water into wine?" He replied, "I don't know about water into wine, but in my house, he turned beer into furniture!"

Alcohol is the only drug mentioned in the Bible; it does not refer to drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, or nicotine (recently declared an addictive drug by the Food and Drug Administration) because they were not available then. It does mention the abuse of the body in overeating (Prov. 23:20-21), and the New Testament teaches the general principle of caring for the physical body (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Thus it is appropriate to apply the statements about alcohol to other addictive drugs as well.

The cost. Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise." The word for wine means alcohol made from fermented grape juice, while the word for beer or "strong drink" (KJV) means alcohol made from grain.

The drinker loses control of his actions and becomes a "mocker" and "brawler," committing acts such as adultery and dangerous driving which he would not do when sober. Many scholars prefer to translate the phrase at the end of the verse, "is not wise," as "cannot act wisely." The mind-altering drug takes away one's ability to do right.

Proverbs 23:21 adds that addiction leads to poverty, for it "clothes them in rags." Proverbs 23:29 shows six more results of addiction: woe, sorrow, strife, complaints, bruises, and bloodshot eyes. Proverbs 23:32 adds the effects of a hangover, which "bites like a snake." Verses 33-35 describe the pitiful state of the addict who experiences hallucinations, is abused by others while unconscious, yet continues to crave more of the drug.

In addition to these personal costs, alcohol can cause cirrhosis of the liver. People who use narcotics can have flashbacks years after they quit, and pregnant women who smoke or drink can cause physical damage to their babies.

The alcoholic or drug abuser is not the only one who is hurt. Society as a whole pays for his or her addiction. Each year about 100,000 people, equal to the population of Biloxi and Gulfport together, die from alcoholic causes. Even if you never take a drink, it will cost you \$479 a year in higher prices due to lost productivity, higher medical insurance, and government social programs, just because other people drink! Alcohol costs the American economy more than \$98 billion a year, and other drugs account for more than \$70 billion in crime, lost productivity, etc.

Our response: What are we to do? Proverbs 23:20 says, "Do not join those who drink too much wine" and 23:31 says, "Do not gaze at wine when it is red." In other words, we should stay away from social situations that would entice us to abuse, and stay away from the temptation of the drug itself, for if you gaze at it, you will eventually want to take it. Since nobody knows if he or she will become an alcoholic until he drinks, the safest policy is total abstinence.

What else can you do to combat this plague on our nation? Be aware of the signs of a problem drinker: drinking alone, drinking to forget problems, physical sickness, and showing up late or missing work. Do not smooth over or hide the problem, or you will become "codependent" on the addict. Insist on counseling, attend a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, or start a support group in your church using the Christian 12-step program from the Baptist Sunday School Board, **Conquering Chemical Dependency** (also available: **Conquering Eating Disorders**).

If your county is having a beer or liquor referendum, encourage others to vote against going "wet." Get involved in Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) and Students Against Driving Drunk (S.A.D.D.). The dangers of alcohol and other drugs are too great to stand by in silence.

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

capsules

JIMMY CARTER APPEALS ON BEHALF OF BELGIAN BAPTISTS: BRUSSELS, Belgium (ABP) — Former President Jimmy Carter, who is an active Baptist, has written to the outgoing Belgian minister of justice, Melchior Wathelet, to complain about the country's religious discrimination against Baptists and other Protestants. According to the Baptist Union of Belgium, the government in Brussels turned down a request by newly formed Federation of Evangelical Churches in Belgium for official recognition as a church. Wathelet refused the request, telling the group it would have to operate through the United Protestant Church which had already been granted recognition. "However, for reasons which do not concern the state, this is not possible for us," said Samuel Verhaeghe, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Belgium. He said there are doctrinal and historical differences between the two organizations. "Belgium must be the only country in Western Europe which still defines Baptists as cults," Verhaeghe told Ecumenical News International. "We want to change that for all evangelicals, and not just for the Baptists." Wathelet, who still holds an important role in the Belgian government, has recently been replaced as minister of justice by Stefaan De Clercke. Verhaeghe said he hoped De Clercke would reconsider the Federation of Evangelical Churches' request.

BSSB ANNOUNCES RESTRUCTURING, JOB DELETIONS IN BT-R DIVISION: NASHVILLE (BP) — Further adjustments in the structure of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Bible teaching-reaching division will result in a reduction of eight positions, effective Oct. 1. Six of the cuts — including three vacant positions — will be made in the ministry-leadership development department where two field service teams (pastor/general leadership and associational) are being merged into one (general leadership-associational). Two vacant positions also are being deleted in the youth-adult department. Employees whose jobs are being deleted, all in the ministry-leadership development department field service section, include: Willie Beaty, general leadership consultant, and James Harvey, associational consultant, who will take early retirement; and pastor/general leadership team leader Tim Holcomb.

COMPUSERVE TO MODIFY RATES; SBCNET PRICING UNCHANGED: NASHVILLE (BP) — Pricing modifications announced by CompuServe, the computer on-line carrier for SBCNet, will not affect monthly rates for the Southern Baptist data communications network when the changes become effective on Sept. 10. David Haywood, coordinator for SBCNet, said rates for the denominational network will remain at \$7.95 monthly for unlimited use. CompuServe monthly charges will remain at \$9.95 monthly, and the distinctions of "basic" and "extended" services will be eliminated. The monthly fee will cover almost all of the network's wide range of services up to five hours, regardless of modem speed. Thereafter, the hourly connect charge will be \$2.95 for CompuServe services. Time on line using SBCNet will not be included in CompuServe usage. SBCNet, coordinated by the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, has more than doubled in membership since August 1994 from 2,500 to 5,600 users on Aug. 4 this year. To order an SBCNet kit or to obtain additional information, call 1-800-325-7749.

ALASKANS HOLD 50TH CONVENTION, ELECT CLOYD SULLINS AS EXECUTIVE: ANCHORAGE, Alaska (BP) — Messengers to the 50th annual meeting of the Alaska Convention elected Cloyd R. Sullins as the successor to retired Executive Director Bill G. Duncan. "Making Missions Happen in Alaska" was the theme of the Aug. 8-9 sessions attended by 221 messengers at First Church, Anchorage. Begun in 1946, the convention now encompasses 62 churches, 26 missions, and 16 preaching points. Sullins, 59, will begin his new duties Sept. 15, coming from the post of director of evangelism for the General Convention of Oklahoma. He was Alaska's director of church evangelism/church growth from 1991-94. He also worked with the Home Mission Board as a SHARE facilitator in Denver and Indianapolis after more than 30 years as a pastor.

CLINTON RECEIVES WARM WELCOME AT MEETING: CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP) — President Bill Clinton got a hero's welcome at a gathering of Baptists — both black and white — on Aug. 9. Clinton addressed a historic joint session of the predominantly African-American Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) and the mostly white Alliance of Baptists in Charlotte, N.C. In his first address to the PNBC, Clinton received a strong endorsement from platform speakers and a capacity crowd at the Charlotte Convention Center because of his support for the poor and minorities. Renowned African-American preacher Gardner Taylor, pastor emeritus of Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., introduced Clinton to the crowd. Taylor cast doubt on the legitimacy of right-wing groups which claim to represent a "Christian" position in political discourse but do not reflect scriptural ethics. "We are Christian people and we know Christians, no matter what label they might bear," Taylor said. "And we know imposters when they bear the name of Christian and bring disgrace on the name of Christ by their lack of compassion and concern for people in this land. We are thankful we have a president who is a committed Christian."

Newest in Books

Let Us Pray — A Plea for Prayer in Our Schools, by William J. Murray. Morrow Publishing, 205 pages. \$19.95.

Not My Own, by Terry Schlossberg and Elizabeth Achtemeier. Abortion and the marks of the church. A tough-minded look at the moral crisis of our age. Eerdmans, 137 pages. \$10.99.

Faith, the Substance of Things Unseen, by Penelope J. Stokes. Honest spirituality, even in its darkest hour, yields closer intimacy with God. Tyndale, 244 pages.

Adrenaline and Stress, by Archibald D. Hart. The exciting new breakthrough that helps you overcome stress damage. 224 pages. \$12.99.

Not a Silent People, by Walter B. Shurden. Controversies that have shaped Southern Baptists. Smyth & Helwys, 118 pages. \$9.95.

The New SBC, by Grady C. Cothen. Fundamentalism's impact on the Southern Baptist Convention. Smyth & Helwys.

Though Lions Roar, by Mary Beth Lagerborg. The story of Helen Roseveare, missionary doctor to the Congo. CLC, 110 pages.

The Best of Catherine Marshall, edited by Leonard E. LeSouff. A life's worth of incomparable wisdom and uplifting spiritual grace from America's most

inspirational author. Avon Books, 350 pages. \$9.

Father to Nobody's Children, by David E. Fessenden. A life-long ministry of rescuing children in London. CLC, 121 pages.

Raising Musical Kids, by Patrick Kavanaugh. Step-by-step plans for parents who simply want to expose their children to great music. Vine Books. \$9.99.

All About Heaven, by Corless Evans with Paula Moore. Tells of heaven the place, who's going to be there, and what we will do there. Evangel Publications, 60 pages.

Walking With Saints, by Calvin Miller. A look at the heroes of the faith through our contemporary lives. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 288 pages. \$18.99.

The New Hiscox Guide for Baptist Churches, by Everett C. Goodwin. A long-standing manual for Baptist polity and practice... recaptures the best of what it means to be a Baptist. Judson Press, 340 pages. \$22.

A Messenger's Memoirs — Sixty-One SBC Meetings by Robert E. Naylor. Providence House, 304 pages. \$16.95.

Baptists Around the World, edited by Albert W. Wardin. Who are Baptists? How have they grown? Where are they now? A comprehensive handbook. Broad-

man & Holman (B&H), 474 pages.

Win-Win Relationship, by H. Newton Mafoony. Nine strategies for settling personal conflicts without waging war. B&H, 179 pages.

Life and Death, by James L. Holly, M.D. What the Bible has to say about violence in the pro-life movement. B&H, 208 pages.

A Basic Christian Theology, by I.J. Conyers. Your theology will make a difference in how you live and worship. B&H, 261 pages.

52 Ready to Teach Bible Study Lessons, by Robert J. Dean, J.B. Fowler Jr., and James E. Taulman. Broadman Comments, 1995-96.

A Faith For All Seasons, by Ted M. Dorman. An effective guide for lay study groups and a valuable resource for ministers. B&H, 391 pages.

Cracking Old Testament Codes, by D. Brent Sandy and Ronald L. Giese Jr. A guide to interpreting the literary genres of the Old Testament. B&H, 323 pages.

Giant Awakenings, by Thom S. Rainer. Making the most of nine surprising trends that can benefit your church. B&H, 198 pages.

The Heart of the Problem, by Huey Brandt and Kerry L. Skinner. A prescription for a deeper experience with God. 240 pages.

"Jane Roe" professes faith in Christ

WASHINGTON (BP) — The woman whose unwanted pregnancy led to the legalization of abortion in the United States has made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and renounced her role in the abortion rights movement.

Norma McCorvey, known as "Jane Roe" in the controversial *Roe vs. Wade* case, was baptized Aug. 8 in the swimming pool of a Dallas area home. She says she placed her faith in Christ at a July worship service at Hillcrest Christian Church in Dallas.

Flip Benham, director of Dallas-based Operation Rescue National, baptized McCorvey at her request. Her baptism by Benham, an ordained Free Will

Methodist minister, came only four months after Operation Rescue National moved its offices next door to the Dallas abortion clinic at which McCorvey worked. She resigned as marketing director of the clinic, *A Choice for Women*, Aug. 7, according to an ABC news report.

"I think abortion is wrong," she told ABC. "I think what I did with *Roe vs. Wade* was wrong. And I just have to take a pro-life position on choice."

She said in an Operation Rescue release, "I'll be serving the Lord and helping women save their babies. I will hold a pro-life position for the rest of my life."

Also, McCorvey has had a les-

bian relationship for 21 years with Connie Gonzalez, ABC reported. Her newfound Operation Rescue friends have not asked McCorvey to "say goodbye" to Gonzalez, ABC said.

"We rejoice at anyone's profession of faith in Christ," said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Christian Life Commission, "and the pro-life position is consistent with the Christian faith and the Christian tradition."

Bibliocipher

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QE LR RYIOSR ABWHXRYQYU, UPI IRWKRXB DQXB
LPO WH DQXB HPYH; EPS DBWX HPY QH BR
DBPG XBR EWXBRS ABWHXRYRXB YPX?

BRVSRDH XDRKJR: HRJRY

This week's clue: H equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Jeremiah Four: Two.

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